21 November 1978   OLC #78-3505

DCT

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Annual Worldwide Wrap-up Briefing for Congress

1.   In view of your and my impending trip to the Far East at the end of December and through 12 January, I'd like to suggest that we get started now on the annual worldwide wrap-up briefing for the Congress. I'm still uneasy about the one we gave last year because we didn't have enough time to review it.

2.   This year the overview of the strategic balance is going to be more important than ever in view of the probable SALT ratification process. At the same time, I would be reluctant this year to devote such a high percentage of the time to the strategic military picture. Even beyond adding in the conventional military balance in Europe, I think the worldwide briefing should cover overall political trends and a few of the key trouble spots. It will be difficult and take a lot of discipline to squeeze all of this in, but first we need to develop our approach to each of the problems.

    a.   Specifically, I was not satisfied last year with the conventional military balance presentation. We have done some very good work since then, especially the notebook of comparisons prepared for the NATO summit. I'm hoping we're going even further into NIE 11-3/8-type qualitative and quantitative comparisons. This one will take a lot of work.

    b.   Similarly, rather than just review the factual situation in Iran, Rhodesia, etc., I wonder if we shouldn't pick out some of the major trends and highlight them, e.g., the Chinese/Soviet rivalry around Indochina; the Soviet economy; the world energy outlook; the overall deterioration in Southern Africa; and the net change in Ethiopia.

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STANSFIELD TURNER

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